

Angola Business Environment News

Alert – avoid problems with the MININT MISA immigration inspectors – ensure compliance with the new immigration law.

Solutions-related events 2008 update:

June Keith Campbell on “The Outlook for the Upcoming Elections” – held on 12 June 2008 – presentation on SA-ACC website

July Jopie Coetzee on “Advanced Investment Risk Mitigation using Vector analysis” – held on 9 July 2008 – presentation on website

Roger Ballard-Tremeer on “Trade and Investment opportunities in Angolan Agriculture” at Agribusiness Africa 2008 – 21 July 2008 – presentation on website

Themis on “Mitigating governance and compliance risk using software” – held on 22 July 2008 – presentation on website

August WISER’s Angola Seminar – 5 August 2008

Africa Investor’s Angola Business Briefing – held on 6 August 2008 – with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Jaime Aguinaldo

Briefing on “Trade and investment opportunities in Angola” for visiting business delegation from Malaysia – held on 7 August 2008 - Roger Ballard-Tremeer

IIR’s SA-Angola Forum 2008 – held on 19/20/21 August 2008 – lead speaker Dr Gabriel Kiala; Chair / Workshop leader Roger Ballard-Tremeer

September Panel discussion on “Tackling the Worsening Port Congestion Crisis by Road” – details to be advised

Corin Mitchell on “Accessing the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund for your Agricultural projects” – details to be advised

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ABEN enables you to engage in Angolan time travel – yesterday / today / tomorrow – look through the URLs and savour the experience.

Never rely solely on the English language versions of ANGOP reports – always refer to the original Portuguese language version for decision-making purposes.

Bridging the cross cultural business diversity gap between home and Angola is a critical business success factor – engage a gap coach – contact ABEN.

Interpreting and translating – only use interpreters and translators that are “sworn” and “accredited”:

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Beware of the “sale of oil blocks” scam now being perpetrated – if you are approached by an entity purporting to offer oil blocks for sale outside the licensing round, allegedly on behalf of SONANGOL, contact ABEN immediately.

Historically, directors, and particularly non-executive directors, had little formal liability when it came to the decisions they made at their companies. Now, however, there is a much more serious fiduciary burden on directors, and they face possible fines or jail time if they fail in their duties... The negligent and / or fraudulent carrying on of business by directors and / or the company officers (including country managers) thereby causing liability to the company may result in the directors and / or the company officers being personally liable at least in terms of delict in common law – in a weak governance environment the risk of negligence escalates considerably – mitigate this cross-border risk using software and gap coaching – contact ABEN

China to help oil-rich Angola to cultivate rice

... China is mulling ways to help oil-rich Angola produce rice and kick-start its once prosperous agricultural sector, state-owned Angop news agency on Thursday cited China's ambassador to Angola as saying. Before independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola was a top exporter of coffee, bananas, sugarcane and sisal. But a 27-year civil war that ensued soon after independence led to a mass exodus of farmers to the cities and halted production. Angolan farmers use less than 10 percent of an estimated 35 million hectares of arable land and the country now imports over half of its food, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. But the country is trying hard to diversify its economy away from the oil sector -- which represents around 90 percent of exports -- and increase agricultural production to fight high food prices and an unemployment rate of around 40 percent. China's ambassador to Angola Zhang Bolun told Angop his country was looking at ways to produce rice in Angola and guarantee the latter's self-sufficiency in food, adding that cooperation between the two countries was "good." Angola has taken out an estimated \$8-12 billion in oil-backed loans from China to rebuild the country's infrastructure after peace was restored in 2002...

<http://africa.reuters.com/country/AO/news/usnBAN138284.html>

Lonrho to focus on Lulo in Angola

... The Lulo diamond concession, which was located in the Cuango river catchment area of the Lunda Norte province, in Angola, contained an identified 29 kimberlite pipes and two extensive alluvial diamond resources...

http://www.miningweekly.com/article.php?a_id=140889

Angolans turn to Virgin Mary ahead of elections

... About 60 percent of Angola's 16.5 million strong population are Catholic, down from about 85 percent before independence, according to Torres, who added the number of faithful is expected to increase in coming years with the Catholic Church's new wave of evangelisation...

<http://africa.reuters.com/top/news/usnBAN751571.html>

Angola could become Agricultural powerhouse

... Dias dos Santos said efforts were underway to allow big companies to develop Angola's vast agricultural resources. "We are pushing for more companies to invest in the sector. We will protect the self-sufficient agriculture but we are also going to bet on big companies that introduce new technology," he said. Angolan farmers cultivate less than 10 percent of an estimated 35 million hectares of arable land due to lack of technology and financing, making Angola one of the most promising agricultural nations. "With these investments we will surely do better than before 1975," he said, in an allusion to Angola's reputation as one of the world's agricultural hotspots before gaining independence from Portugal in 1975 and the start of the civil war...

http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article.php?a_id=140928... Angola, with plentiful water and fertile soils, can re-establish itself as one of the world's richest farming nations as it recovers from a civil war that devastated the sector, the country's prime minister said. "We have the potential to become one of

the world's richest agricultural countries," Prime Minister Fernando Dias dos Santos said in an interview with Reuters on Thursday. Angola was the world's fourth biggest coffee producer and a top exporter of sugarcane, bananas, sisal and cotton before a 27-year civil war on independence from Portugal in 1975 led to a mass exodus of farmers to the cities and halted production. Dias dos Santos said Angola, which now imports over half of its food, has invested billions of dollars to rebuild roads, energy and water supply networks to revive the industry and link the capital Luanda to the countryside. "We have been creating infrastructures that are necessary to increase internal production. We are completing roads for the transportation of goods and people and building energy and water supply (networks) that are also important," he said. He said growing state and private investment in the sector will make Angola less dependent on oil, which accounts for almost 90 percent of the country's exports. "We are creating areas of investment in several provinces in the rural areas. Some (projects) will be financed by the state but there has to be more private investment. I think that in the next two to three years there will be visible changes (in production)." Angola is also trying to revive its once prosperous coffee and banana industry, Dias dos Santos said. "There are old coffee plantations being revived in the centre and south of the country and rising investments in banana plantations like in Benguela, Luanda and Luanda Sul," he said. "Our goal today is not the same as in the 1970s, we have to surpass those goals. The situation is different and the population itself has increased."

A WAY OUT

Angola recently surpassed Nigeria as Africa's biggest oil producer and has experienced double-digit growth in both the oil and non-oil sectors. But ordinary Angolans have so far failed to tap into such growth -- almost two-thirds live on less than \$2 a day and unemployment hovers around 40 percent. Some see agriculture as the only way to improve the lives of the people amid rising food prices and inflation. The World Bank recently urged the Angolan government to bolster investment in agriculture and offered \$30 million to fund an agricultural project geared toward market production. But in the traditional farming provinces of Benguela, Bie, Huambo and Malange, local farmers still work on small plots of land to grow just enough to feed their families. Dias dos Santos said efforts were underway to allow big companies to develop Angola's vast agricultural resources. "We are pushing for more companies to invest in the sector. We will protect the self-sufficient agriculture but we are also going to bet on big companies that introduce new technology," he said. Angolan farmers cultivate less than 10 percent of an estimated 35 million hectares of arable land due to lack of technology and financing, making Angola one of the most promising agricultural nations. "With these investments we will surely do better than before 1975," he said, in an allusion to Angola's reputation as one of the world's agricultural hotspots before gaining independence from Portugal in 1975 and the start of the civil war.

<http://africa.reuters.com/business/news/usnBAN528514.html>

Marktest surveys Angola

... Marktest Angola also develops its activity around tailored research according to our customer's needs ("ad-hoc" studies), where we apply quantitative and qualitative techniques. With our own fieldwork, specially trained by us in the theoretical background of market research activities as well as practical skills for interviewing, and technical team, Marktest Angola developed innovative techniques for quality control....

<http://www.marktest-angola.com/portal/index.php?id=1000&lang=EN>

Angola AMPS 2007 [all media and products study] results <http://www.marktest-angola.com/portal/index.php?id=1236>

Malaria kills, saps energies and harms Africa's economies

... Despite all efforts, malaria continues to be a serious public health concern throughout the world and especially in Africa. It affects over 100 countries and approximately 40 per cent of the world's population. Of the 2.5 billion people at risk between 300 and 500 million become severely sick and over 1 million people die from malaria every year. In Africa, the worst affected continent, one in every five childhood deaths is due to the effects of the disease. The World Health Organisation estimates that an African child has on average between 1.6 and 5.4 episodes of malaria fever each year and every thirty seconds an African child dies of malaria.... Overall 35 per cent of the samples were substandard and failed the test. This means that one in three patients is unlikely to be cured by the proclaimed antimalarial treatments purchased. Sub-standard drugs as opposed to outright fakes (where there is no attempt whatsoever to include the active

ingredient) are of particular concern because in addition to affecting the patients' health, they also increase the probability of the malaria parasites building up resistance to good quality drugs. This has the potential of rendering an entire class of drugs useless, which in turn has serious long-term implications for our ability to fight the disease....

<http://www.freemarketfoundation.com/showArticle.asp?ArticleType=AOTW>

South Africa – Angola Chamber of Commerce – five years of members applying this code of conduct in trade with, and investment in, Angola.

Article 1: Extortion and coercion

No one may, directly or indirectly, demand or accept a bribe.

Article 2: Bribery and "Kickbacks"

- a.) No Member may, directly or indirectly, offer or give a bribe and any demands for such a bribe must be rejected.
- b.) Members should not (i) kick back any portion of a contract payment to employees of the other contracting party, or (ii) utilize other techniques, such as subcontracts, purchase orders or consulting agreements, to channel payments to government officials, to employees of the other contracting party, their relatives or business associates.

Article 3: Agents

Members should take measures reasonably within their power to ensure:

- a) that any payment made to any agent represents no more than an appropriate remuneration for legitimate services rendered by such agent;
- b) that no part of any such payment is passed on by the agent as a bribe or otherwise in contravention of these Rules of Conduct; and
- c) that they maintain a record of the names and terms of employment of all agents who are retained by them in connection with transactions with public bodies or State enterprises. This record should be available for inspection by auditors and, upon specific request, by appropriate, duly authorized governmental authorities under conditions of confidentiality.

Article 4: Financial Recording and Auditing

- a) All financial transactions must be properly and fairly recorded in appropriate books of account available for inspection by boards of directors, if applicable, or a corresponding body, as well as auditors.
- b) There must be no "off the books" or secret accounts, nor may any documents be issued which do not properly and fairly record the transactions to which they relate.
- c) Members should take all necessary measures to establish independent systems of auditing in order to bring to light any transactions which contravene the present Rules of Conduct. Appropriate corrective action must then be taken.

Article 5: Responsibilities of Members

The board of directors or other body with ultimate responsibility for the member should:

- a) take reasonable steps, including the establishment and maintenance of proper systems of control aimed at preventing any payments being made by or on behalf of the member which contravene these Rules of Conduct;
- b) periodically review compliance with these Rules of Conduct and establish procedures for obtaining appropriate reports for the purposes of such review; and
- c) take appropriate action against any director or employee contravening these Rules of Conduct.

Article 6: Political Contributions

Contributions to political parties or committees or to individual politicians may only be made in accordance with the applicable law, and all requirements for public disclosure of such contributions shall be fully complied with. All such contributions must be reported to senior corporate management.

Article 7: Company Codes

These Rules of Conduct being of a general nature, members should, where appropriate, draw up their own codes consistent with the ICC Rules and apply them to the particular circumstances in which their business is carried out. Such codes may usefully include examples and should enjoin employees or agents who find themselves subjected to any form of extortion or bribery immediately to report the same to senior corporate management. Members should develop clear policies, guidelines, and training programmes for implementing and enforcing the provisions of their codes.

With acknowledgement to the ICC <http://www.iccwbo.org/>

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Panorama of the Bay of Luanda from the Fortaleza

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